new england *UFO* newsletter

WHOLE NUMBER 19

JULY 1980

DAYLIGHT DISC REPORTED FROM WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS. by Dave Downs and Joe Nyman

Roll exibited in direction of travel.

Metallic silver-gray

Date of sighting: July 12, 1980 Time of sighting: 7:15 PM EDT

Place of sighting: Worcester, Massachusetts

Local evaluation: Probable unknown-still under investigation.

On Saturday evening, July 12, Mr. William Evans of 41 Barclay St., Worcester, Mass., (aged 41) was in his kitchen about to prepare some food. The sun was still 75 minutes away from setting. Mr. Evans' seven year old son, Scott, was in his bedroom when he heard some children in the street below excitedly yelling about an object in the sky (the Evans family occupies the second floor of a three story duplex apartment building). Scott went to his bedroom window (facing due south) and also saw the object. He called to his father to come see the "flying saucer". At first, Mr. Evans paid little attention to his son thinking the boy was watching something like the Goodyear blimp. Finally, heeding his son's calls, Mr. Evans went to the window and was amazed to see an unusual object (sketch above taken from witness drawing). He too considered it a flying saucer, but what surprised Mr. Evans was that it didn't seem to be behaving like a UFO should. His preconception was that a UFO should be spinning about its vertical axis. Instead, he saw an object that moved through an arc of about 70 degrees in 15 seconds while wobbling about its axis parallel to the direction of movement.

The object as described by Evans, was divided into two distinct parts; an upper part that seemed like a trucated cone consisting of light-reflecting plates "like that office building in Boston" (the Prudential Insurance building is completely faced in glass), and a lower part like a bowl that reflected (continued page 2)

light like silver-gray metal. The object was soundless, travelled parallel to the ground at an elevation of about 20 degrees, and was lost from sight behind a tree. Evans estimated that a coin about 2.5 centimeters in diameter held at arms-length, would have covered the object.

Although Evans urgently called to his wife to come, she arrived too late to confirm the sighting.

Character Check

A call to the individual given as a character reference confirmed that Mr. Evans, a day or two after the sighting, related the story, still in evident fright, and although extremely reluctant to report the sighting, he was finally persuaded to report what he had seen to the police. They, in turn, called Dave Downs. Evans was given high marks for integrity by his reference who had known him for ten years.

Additional Factors

Mr. Evans could not be considered a high quality observer. having had only a ninth grade education and being largely selftaught in refrigeration repair, his occupation. Also, he viewed the object through a window screen, which may have caused distortion.

Attempts will be made to interview the other observers (children) although it is not known whether their testimony can be relied on.

Conclusion

A hoax is ruled out. Misidentification of something conventional (possibly a balloon) must still be considered in this continuing investigation.

Correction: Issue 18 was sent to some subscribers with an incorrect time for the events. The time should have read: "10:10-10:40 PM EST".

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APPARENT LOW-LEVEL FLYOVER NEAR STURBRIDGE

by Joe Nyman

Date of UFO Sighting: Thursday, April 3, 1980

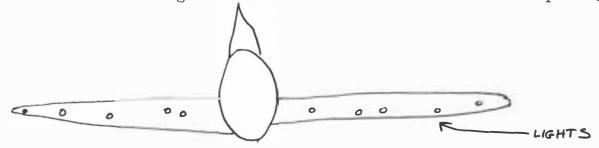
Time of UFO Sighting: Approx. 9:20 PMest

Place of Sighting: Approx. 1-2 miles south of the Sturbridge exit

on the Massachusetts Turnpike. (Interstate Rte. 90).

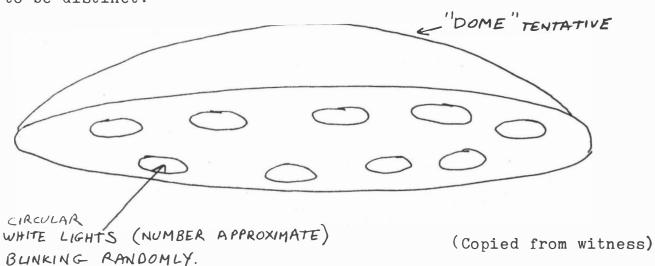
Local Evaluation: Highly probable unknown.

"This is what I thought I would see when it came close: a plane."



(Copied from witness)

"This is what I actually saw when the shape came close enought to be distinct!"



Sighting Account (transcribed from witness written relation).

It was Thursday night, (before Easter) at about 9:20 or 9:30 PM. I had just gone through the toll booth at the Sturbridge exit (see following map for location, Ed.). Traffic was very light, and there was no line backed up at the toll booth-I went right through. I was on Rt. 86 heading south, towards Hartford. Less than a minute after I went through the toll (may have been as little as 15 seconds), I was looking up through the windshield, up in the sky, fairly low on the horizon, were a row of blinking lights. I thought it was aplane. It appeared to be flying toward me. It looked strange because there seemed to be too many lights for it to be a small plane, but it was flying too close to the ground to be a large plane. Also, I assumed the lights were along the wing span, and it looked like the span wasn't wide enough to be a jet or large plane. It was also flying at a speed that I would have considered normal for a small plane. The lights were blinking on and off. I kept my eye on it, as it was coming in my direction, and the lights were clearly visible in my line of vision through the windshield. I was probably only driving about 30 or 40 mph at that point (since I had just gotten past the toll booth, and my car doesn't have much pickup).

It was quite close to me before it registered in my head that it wasn't a plane. The lights were not along a wingspan. There were no wings. The lights were circular and were set in the bottom of a large, round, flat base. It flew over my car. It may have been slowing down as it went over me, since I was able to distinctly tell that the lights on the bottom were circular. If it had been going as fast as when I first saw it, I wouldn't have been able to tell exactly what the shape of the lights was like.

I am absolutely sure of what I saw. I wasn't looking for a UFO, I was expecting to see a plane come into sight. It was quite a shock to realize that it was not a plane. If I hadn't already been staring at the lights I could have missed it entirely, or I could have thought that I was imagining it.

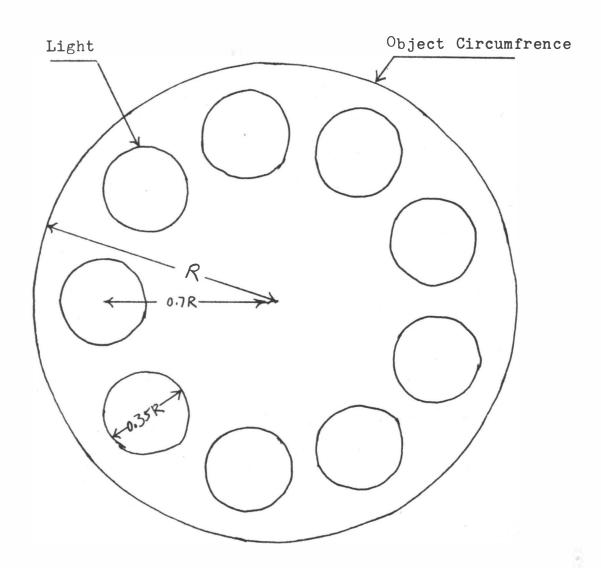
When it went over the car, it may have been at the height of 2 or 3 telephone poles. It seemed very close. Also large. At that point the road is about 3 lanes wide and this thing was probably a small bit wider than the road.

As it flew directly over me, I could tell the bottom was actually a circular shape, with circular lights around the edge. Because I was focusing on the lights on the bottom, my recollection of the top is very vague. I don't know if there were any lights on top, or exactly what the shape of it was.

(On the following page) is (a sketch of) the approximate size relationship of the lights to the entire size of the bottom. I have drawn 9; there may have been one or two more or less-but they were fairly large and distinct. I saw no other markings

on the bottom of the thing. The lights flashed on and off in what appeared to be a random pattern.

(continued next page)



Indication of the relative sizes of observed features, Sturbridge exit, Massachusetts Turnpike, April 3, 1980. This drawing based on witness' sketch.

Witness Interview and Followup

The witness, Ms. Elise Marcil of Watertown, Mass., related a story that was essentially the same, when interviewed, as the written account that she had prepared beforehand. The witness has a mild interest in the UFO subject and gets most of her information from a friend who is strongly interested. The investigator noticed that the witness' bookcase contained no UFO books but was very strong in Science Fiction.

The investigator was able to speak with the witness' mother on April 14 after the witness informed her that the investigator wanted to call. The mother confirmed that her daughter had arrived home that night (April 3rd) excited and nervous. She was also fearful since the trip home after the sighting was through an area relatively free of traffic. The mother reported that her daughter immediately related the story to both her and her son and then called the Mass. State Police without taking her coat off. It was through the State Police that the investigator came to know of the sighting.

On the evening of April 14 the investigator also spoke with the witness' roomate, who confirmed that in the eight years that she had known the witness, the witness had not related any stories of this nature.

Additional Witness Check

According to the witness, the State Police (Massachusetts), had received no other calls that evening of a similar nature.

The tolltaker at the Sturbridge exit was contacted but had not seen anything that evening nor had he heard that anyone else at the toll station had.

Man-made Object Check

Because of the object description, the investigator felt that the most probable conventional explanation was an advertising aircraft, especially when the witness had trouble estimating the relative size of what she had seen; she could not compare its size to an object held at arms-length or the apparent size of the moon.

The Federal Aviation Authority Flight Service Station at Windsor Locks, Connecticut provided the investigator with a list of aerial advertising services from the Hartford, Conn. phonebook. These and other services and agencies that might have had an aircraft in the area proved negative. One could not be contacted. Because of this lone possibility, the investigator must list this as a highly probable unknown.

Object Characteristics and Effects Summary

At no time were the witness' car headlights or ignition effected.

The witness experienced no physiological or psychological effects other than nervousness.

The witness heard no sounds.

The lights of the object seemed to go on and off randomly and were always white. The light emitted was much like that of a traffic light, that is, did not form a beam. The witness thought that perhaps the lights were sectioned into thin rectangles, each rectangle being bordered by the circumfrence of the light-but wasn't sure.

The witness was also unsure of the presence of a "dome" since her attention was attracted to the lights.

Sighting Evaluation

The fact that the witness at first thought she was viewing an oncoming aircraft, yet failed to describe the normal aircraft running light colors (noticing only multiple white lights) adds strength to the "unknown" evaluation. This, coupled with the failure to find any aircraft in the area at the time that might have displayed a similar lighting pattern leads to the conclusion of a high propability unknown.

Additional Comment

James McCampbell has advanced the theory that auto headlight reflectors in close proximity to, or oriented in such a way that, UFOs emitting EM radiation have this radiation focused on the tungsten filaments of the headlamps causing headlamp failure by depletion of conducting electrons (McCampbell, James J., UFO Interference With Automobile Electrical Systems, Part I, Headlights, Proceedings of the 1976 CUFOS Conference, Center for UFO Studies, p. 164.).

In this case, no such effect was noticed. The witness was driving an American Motors Corp. Gremlin (1976) and at one point had stopped the car as the object passed over. The following possibilities come to mind:

- 1) The witness was too preoccupied to notice what might have been a slight dimming (there was no direct horizontal radiation possible, only a horizontal component).
 - 2) The object was not emitting radiation.
 - 3) The theory does not apply.
 - $\iota_{\!\scriptscriptstyle +})$ The object was not a UFO.

Unfortunately, no firm conclusion can be drawn and there may indeed be other explanations for the lack of EM effects.

OBJECT REPORTED FROM WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

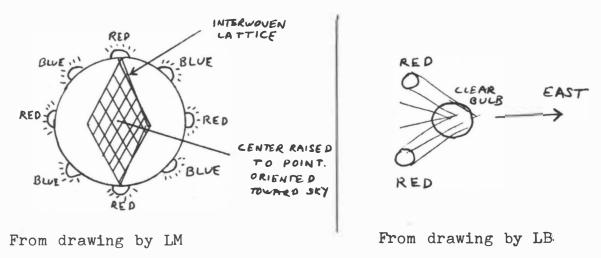
Date of sighting: Friday, February 15, 1980

Time of sighting: 8:55 PM EST

Place of sighting: Waltham, Massachusetts

Local Evaluation: Unknown-ordinary

Condensed from the report by Joe Sanangelo and Virginia Neurath.



The object as drawn by both witnesses.

Sighting Relation

Two sisters, LM, aged 52 and LB aged 54, were traveling north by car on route 60 in Watertown near the Frennal school. They were on their way to pick up children who had been dropped off an hour earlier at the school for an undefined event.

From over the Frennal school on the driver's left, both woman sighted a number of very bright lights that appeared to be part of a single structure. The lights were traveling west to east, toward Boston.

The woman continued to watch the lights through the wind-shield but had to be careful of children who were now leaving the event. The driver, LM, lost sight of the object for this reason, but LB, the passenger followed it to her right until it seemed to fade from view.

Total viewing time was estimated at about two minutes.

In an interview with Joe Santangelo on February 18, LB used part of a small spinning wheel to show how the lights were arranged and to show a circular ring that had some thickness or rim just like the spinning wheel. She put red and yellow petals equally spaced around the rim to show how she perceived the red and blue lights on the rim of the circular structure. The lights (estimated 8-10) were oval shaped in a vertical format around the circle.

An Interesting Foreign Report

Thanks to a local MUFON member who is also a physicist by profession, we have the following Italian report. Sime it involved relatives of the physicist, he was in an excellent position to judge the credibility of the witnesses. He is also in an excellent position to comment upon the observed physical effect, which may be unique in the literature.

Known to the editor but wishing anonymity, he presents his account as follows:

UFO REPORT

Date: February 1, 1977

Time: about midnight

Duration: over 1/2 hour

Witnesses: two persons, age 66 and 68 (female and male)

Place: San Pietro Avellana, Isernia, Italy

Data on principal witnesses: husband and wife; both retired high school teachers; impeccable reputation in their community; refusal to report the event to authorities; refusal to release their names as well as being interviewed; the reporter (a relative of the witnesses living in the USA) happened to visit Italy in 1977 and learned about the episode.

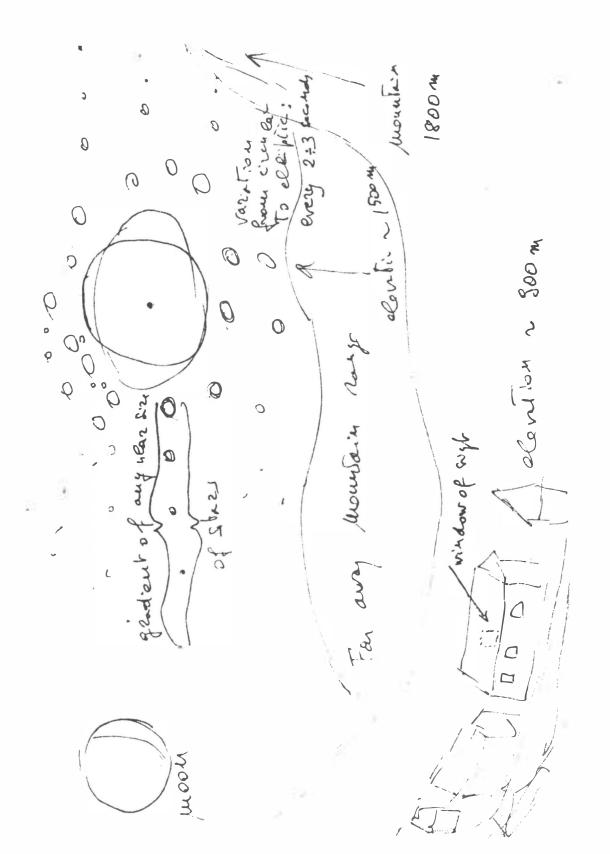
Description of the sight: One of the witnesses (husband) did not feel well during the night of February 1, 1977 and asked for the wife's assistance. After walking for some time in the room, he looked at the window and saw the UFO. It consisted of a circular-elliptical light of the size of the moon some $50^{\circ}-60^{\circ}$ high in the sky which had its center stationary. Nevertheless, the light changed shape from elliptical to circular, and changed color from yellow to orange. No sound was heard after opening the window. Estimated distance: unknown. Visibility: excellent (no clouds). Moon: visible as a separate sight (almost full)

and illuminating the ground (no light illuminating the ground and originating from the object was identified). Cause: unknown (stars and planets must be excluded because of the large size). The witnesses watched the object-light for about half-an-hour with increasing uneasiness due to their inability to understand the sight. Upon consulting each other, they decided to close the window and shutters and return to bed.

At the time they did so, the sight was still in the same position. They did not return to the window because of their state of fear from the size and color of the sight. The times of actual beginning and end of the event are unknown. No search for possible third witthesses was possible because of the prohibition from the principal witnesses. The chances for other witnesses is however small owing to the small population of the area (in the mountains in the central Appennin), as well as the custom of sleeping during late hours.

Peculiarity of the sight. The sight, as reported by the principal witnesse had the following peculiarity. The stars in the neighborhood of the event were much bigger than normal, with a gradual return to normal dimensions with the increase of the distance from the event.

No accurate evaluation of the angular size of the stars near the event was available, apart from qualitative evaluations such as: "a small coin at arm's length". The witnesses however insisted that they had never seen stars (or planets) of such magnitude as well as density.



Narrator's sketch of sighting at San Pietro Avellana, February 1, 1977.

The scientific puzzle. It appears that the event produced a form of magnification of objects in its proximity, that is, a sort of spherical telescopic effect for all the light passing in the vicinity of the object. In principle, this could be compared to the gravitational bending of light by heavy masses such as the sun. However, this bending is quantitatively so small, to demand precision instruments for its detection. The achievement of telescopic effects of the type reported by the witnesses is therefore such to demand masses (or energies) substantially larger than that of the sun (of the order of several thousands). Current physical theories predict that, for masses of this order of magnitude concentrated in a small area, near by light rays should be absorbed by the object. Besides, the gravitational tides would be prohibitive, and definitely such to distort the entire Earth. The most sensible conclusion is therefore that our current scientific knowledge simply cannot explain the indicated peculiarity of the sight.

RUTLAND HERALD RUTLAND, VT. 2. 22,500

APR 1 1980

CREDIT-

BARRY GREENWOOD

WIFO Sighting

MIDDLEBURY — A

"eigar-shaped object with
lighting at each end"
hevered in "the northwest
corner of the night sky for
more than at hour Monday
night, or at least that's
what one teenage resident
teld state police at Middlebury.

Police said the call came
in around 10:30 p.m. Police
reported the young man
who placed the eall was not
alarmed, but was simply
"calling in to ask if anyone
else had noticed" the
phenomenon.

The youth told police "he
had been watching the
thing for more than an
hour," pulice here
reported.

Nine days age is Surington, traite controllers at the Surfington International Airport, together with area police said they saw a UFO

It description however was different According to traite controller Donald Kernen, that UFO was bright light life date that of dance.

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Thanks again to Barry Greenwood for the clip below. In spite of the intentions of the UFO investigators quoted in the article, the only report yet published is in the Mar. 1980 APRO Bulletin whose investigator, Richard Japhet concluded, among other things that radar picked up "solid metal objects" that gave the impression of "a larger craft collecting/or dispensing smaller craft." Kleindale Rd., Tucson, Arizona 3910 E.

AURLINETON R 12.100

25 1980

The cluster of the flights seen Saturday night ling northwest the Champlain toward New Jemained Line of Monday, but UFO rehers are investigating

Assa police and lame controllers at Burlington mational Airport spotted the height, colorful object ering above Malletts Bay

in on the Airport radar morniars the telescopes the copied that flashed

astonomer and director of

An airport control tower spokesman said the sovernment as longer investigates UFO reports, leaving the work to private institutions. A report of the occurrence that was filed by traffic controllers was sent to the Center for Atmospheric Research in Palestine, Texas, the spokesman said.

The UEC Reporting Center in Seattle also was

the light was seen by police in Colchester and surington and an am feur astronomer in Essex June Chestar as woman who saw a colorful object and she thought it was a star ckering beaute moving branches until the object

of the observators

Stebbins said he had another officer look at the

A Burlington officer plewed the lights from the P&C Supermarket parking lot on North Avenue, Stebbins said. A report was not included in the Burlington Police Department log

Richard and Lorsine Billups said they took turns tracking the lights arough a telescope from their Jackson Heights home in Essex Junction.

Billups, an amateur estronomer since age 9, said the object was triangular in shape and flashed a acqueroe solors to blue to red with a bright

At first, the object hovered over Malletts Bay,

Billiope said. "It was not a star " was not a planet," said Billups. en to trarted movement forth, it took on the shape of a the colors changed faster as it

Billings said file wife first spotted the lights. "It was Tom Premember secause TV last night was really

boring and my wife decided to go to bed. "We watched until about 11 p.m. when it was blocked by the tree line. Billupa said. Plattsburgh Air Force Base officials said they had

no reports of of the lights.

The national UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., received some reports and will investigate, a spokesman said,

Morris and Kernan said their sightings at the airport, made after the Colchester Police Department filed a report, were recorded in the daily log, but no action was taken to determine the object's identity.

The lights seemed to be floating between 2,500 and 4,000 feet above the ground, but they might have been as far away as 60 miles, Kernan said.

as far away as ou miles, Kernan said.

Kernan said the clear, crisp March night sky can cause pright attract play tricks on a person's eyes. But also checking his vision on the stationary airport runway lights. Kernan said he knew the jumping lights were not due to an unsteady hand.

"It was something abnormal. If was an unusual sighting," said Kernan, admitting he might get a

ribbing from some people who refuse to believe in UFOs.

"It was fun because it was strange," Morris said. doubting an explanation will ever be offered.

Extraordinary 18th Century UFO at Boston -- or Journalistic License?

Thanks to indefatigable researcher Barry Greenwood we have the following account. It appeared in The Boston Gazette and Country Journal of August 19, 1765 (page 2). The article states that the event occurred on the previous Wednesday, which would make the date August 14, 1765. Due to the sorry state of the microfilm on which the newspaper is now preserved, not every word of the account is readable. Omissions are indicated here by blank sets of parentheses. The editor's guess at what might have been printed is followed by question marks or is enclosed in parentheses. Here is the complete report in the original style and punctuation:

To the Printers

The following Account of the late very extraordinary Phenomenon, may be relied on, and proves () to have been as curious as that of Irish Shannen or any of those surprising Meteors whose Rise and Progress we find recorded in the Philosophical Transactions.

"It having been very dry here for some weeks, every lover of good eating and drinking in a (free air?) was very sharp; looking out for signs of rain; Nothing uncommon was seen till about 6 a clock last Wednesday morning when some Connaisseurs. in times and seasons and who are really weatherwise, discovered a small black cloud, bigger indeed than a man's hand, but not larger than an human body, and in much that shape. It was suspended in the air lower than ordinary and quite motionless except now and then a little of the pendulous or vibratory kind. A perpendicular let fall from the zenith to the centre would have passed right plumb through the cloud when () like a spit thro! the body of a goose, as was well noted in the time of it, by Proclus the mathematician, who viewed and carefully observed it with a fine reflecting telescope. The cloud remained in much the same position till the going down of the sun. By this time thousands were congregated to stare and to gaze and to gape, for rary shows, and signs & wonders and monsters are as much run after and admired here, as they can be in the wise cities of London and Westminster. On this occasion, however, curiosity had an unnatural effect, as nothing to be compared to it had been seen or heard of since the days of the fore fathers who lived under the infamous (). To the great astonishment and amazement of the spectators about 7 a clock the cloud fell suddenly to the earth but soon mounted again about 15 ? feet from the ground. and moved very gradually, regularly and solemly from the south

part of the town along the main street "emittant caldera" ?. It emitted but () in a while a little vapor & smoke intermixed with a few rapid sparks of electric fire till it came before the province house. Here it stopped a few minutes, swelled? looking excessively black and fierce and suddenly discharged itself of three tremendous peals of thunder which shook that dusty fabric and all the little houses? and hollow hearts near it. Much more was by some very reasonably apprehended and dreaded. But the cloud then proceeded (in) like manner into Kingstreet, and it passed a commodious house there, in which a number of () Magi were assembled to explore its nature and properties it gave three discharges more not quite so loud and angry in sound ? as the former, so terribly allarming, that the greatest virtuosi chymists and calculators threw away their tubes, trumbles? and glasses and one or two of them soon after () took to their heels. The cloud by this time was wheeling off by the golden ball inn, and seemed more than strongly inclined to visit regions of the North there being, as all astrologers agree, a () edifice towards the borders of the great circle very attractive of meteors and this is the true reason that the Aurora Borealis has generally hist. (orically) made its appearance there and thence sometimes spread itself over the whole hemispere. But against those appearances the cloud instantly turned, took? a rapid course down to Oliver's dock and by a violent explosion in all directions sank ? and tore ? a newly erected building, said to be for a stamp office, into stones. Thence it took the like excursion up top hill, to the very spot where Andros was executed, and in the narrow? up burst again and shattered the Secretary's windows. glass and china. The end of his garden fence and the great door on (of) ? his workbench were torn quite away and have not been found since but happily he sustained not much more damage, tho' by this time the cloud threatened death and destruction to all around it. Having ascended the mount at the same distance from the (), it rested there but for a few moments e'er it began to roar and blow and bellow, and thunder and to vomit smoke and fire and raged like Aetna in ten thousand flames. It continued in this condition till about 11 o'clock when it suddenly vanished and all was once more quiet. It was seen and heard many miles around and the inhabitants from the neighboring towns were running? in, expecting to find the metropolis in general confligration. We have yet had no rain, but the air from being very sultry and almost unfit for respiration, like that on the coast of Guinea has ever since been remarkably fine, clear and () and I hope will continue so.

Some very good people look on this as a singular judgement on Mr. Secretary, for the sin at least of accepting an office, the name of which ever has () and will be odious to all true North Americans, when his own fortune and really honorable appointments would have supported him according to his rank. This is certain, the unpopular office is for the present resigned.

The first reference to the above article that the editor is aware of appeared in Mysteries of the Skies, by Lore and Deneault,

(Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 1968, pp 64-65), where a portion of the report was printed. The authors, however took the article to represent a completely tongue-in-cheek way of condemning the Stamp Act put through Parliament early in 1765. The editor agrees.

The true events in Boston of August 14, 1765 were detailed in an historical supplement to the Boston Sunday Globe commemorating the U.S. bicentennial (Boston Tea Party, The Trigger of our Revolution, page 10). Quoting in part-

"Aug. 14, 1765 would long be an occasion for a gala celebration by the Sons of Liberty.

That morning the early-rising citizens of Boston saw a straw-stuffed effigy and a long boot with a peeping device hanging from the Liberty Tree...

Shops were closed down...so everyone could come and see these summertime shennanigans...

Nightfall did not end the show...The effigy and boot were taken down and placed on a bier, and a crowd that grew by the hundreds paraded along the main street to the old State House... where Bernard, Hutchinson, Oliver and the councilors were still in perplexed session, marched down present State street toward the harbor and turned into present Liberty Square.

Nearby was a small new structure erected at the head of Oliver's wharf. Word had spread that it was intended as head-quarters for distributing the stamps. The crowd quickly leveled it, lugged the lumber, effigies and bier to nearby Fort Hill and sent them up in a merry blaze...

Oliver's house, near the foot of the hill, now became a target....Roaring slogans, as they had at the old State House, the rougher members of the crowd axed open the doors, smashed windows and started breaking the furnishings and raided the cellar..."

And so on!

But this isn't the end of our consideration. It can hardly have escaped the notice of an observant reader of the original account that the terms used to describe the imaginary cause of disorder abd destruction are very similar to terms used today to describe the actions of "real" UFOs.

For instance, "suspended in air...except now and then a little (motion) of a pendulous or vibratory kind." and "...fell suddenly to earth but soon mounted again...", and "It emitted... a little vapor & smoke...", and "...it suddenly vanished.".

It seems that the truly extraordinary thing about this account was the fabricated, UFO-like nature of its description.

What immediately comes to mind when thinking about this situation is the orientation of some researchers in favor of the position that a major component of the experience that a UFO witness reports is subjective, whether having its origin in past experience, archtypal consciousness or externally induced mental manipulation—rather than the result of a direct sensory experience alone.

Those interested in pursuing this point of view may wish to read the following:

- 1) Jung, Flying Saucers, Signet paperback, New York, 1969.
- 2) Randles and Warrington, UFOs, A British Viewpoint, Robert Hale, London, 1979.
- 3) Lawson, Hypnosis of Imaginary UFO "Abductees", Journal of UFO Studies, Vol. 1 No. 1, Suite 207, 1609 Sherman Ave., Evanston, Ill., 60201 (undated).